

GUIDED SELF-PLACEMENT: COMMUNICATION

Should I take COMM 101 (Fundamentals of Oral Communication) or COMM 209 (Critical Thinking and Argumentation?)

These are both great classes that satisfy the Oral Communication general education requirement. Remember to check your major specific requirements as some majors do require COMM 101 OR COMM 209 specifically.

If your major allows you a choice, here are some things to consider:

COMM 101

COMM 101 is a general overview of the communication process. At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding and application of human communication concepts in the areas of communication process, public communication, listening, group communications, nonverbal communication, persuasion, language, and culture. Students will perform at least two speeches with communication activities worked through the course.

COMM 209

COMM 209 focuses more intentionally on one area of communication: critical thinking and argumentation. Students will become more analytical and critical as consumers of the discourse of others. Students will be able to recognize flawed reasoning and leave with the skills and strategies needed to deal with the flawed reasoning of others. Students will become more adept and more ethical in constructively advancing and defending views in both public and personal settings. Finally, COMM 209 will help students become more understanding and tolerant of those with whom they disagree.

You may want to consider some scheduling differences in deciding between COMM 101 and COMM 209:

- There are more sections of COMM 101. This allows for more flexibility to work courses around other areas of your life.
- COMM 209 is only offered face-to-face. If you need an online or hybrid section of oral communication, you can meet this need with COMM 101.

You may want to consider some textbook differences in deciding between COMM 101 and COMM 209:

- COMM 101 uses an inclusive access textbook that you will access through your Canvas course. The cost will be approximately \$30.00.
- COMM 209 uses trade books and digital resources. Total cost for materials will be approximately \$10.00.

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Frequently Asked Questions for COMM 101 Online

1. Do I ever have to come to class?

No, all of COMM 101 is handled electronically. There are no on-campus obligations.

2. How about speeches?

Speeches are a challenging part of COMM 101 online. The speech requirements are the same as they are for any COMM 101 class. However, students in the online section are required to find their own audiences (a Rotary Club, meeting at work, etc.) to which they can give their speeches. There are two speeches for the course and they must be presented to audiences of more than 10 adults. These speeches are then recorded and uploaded to Canvas for viewing by your instructor.

3. What are the assignments like?

Students are required to essentially do everything that an on-campus section would do. Text reading, discussions, chapter questions, speeches/outlines, and final exam make up a student's final grade.

4. I work full-time and have a family. Will this class fit into my schedule?

The good part about this online class is that it is totally time independent. Meaning, a student can log into this class any time. However, this doesn't mean that this class takes any LESS time than a regular class. Students should figure the same amount of time to complete this class as they would need to complete an on-campus section of COMM 101.

5. Can I work at my own pace?

There is a lot of flexibility built into COMM 101. However, there are weekly deadlines and students are expected to interact with the instructor and each other. So, students aren't entirely at their own pace. One can always work ahead, but late work isn't acceptable.

6. Is this class easier than COMM 101 on-campus?

NO!! The reality is that this class works very well for people who absolutely can't make it to campus (for whatever reason). However, if coming to campus is an option, most people find that their experience is better in an on-campus environment.

7. I HATE giving speeches in front of people!!! Will taking this class on the internet make that easier for me???

ABSOLUTELY NOT!! In fact, if a student suffers from any sort of debilitating speech anxiety, this course is probably NOT for you. Coming to campus will make the experience far easier. It will be easier to work with an instructor who can help you through the process. And, it will allow you to avoid the prospect of having to put a speech on video. Please consider an on-campus option if you need some assistance in this area.

8. I've registered for COMM 101 online...what should I do next?

You will be automatically enrolled in the Canvas section of this class when you register for the course. The course, however, will not be available to you until the first day of class. You will be sent an email on the first day of class with all of the instructions to begin with the Canvas system and the class. Remember that CSI considers your school email your official account, and your instructors will do all of their email communication with you through that account. Please check it on the first day of class!

Canvas can be accessed through the main CSI website at www.csi.edu (look for the MyCSI button at the top).